THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) While the scientists of NASA, USA are yet to confirm the existence of life on Mars, their recent studies based on the analysis of the Antarctic meteorite sample indicate the possibility that life could have existed on Mars in the early period of the planet's evolution.

(b) Indian scientists involved in research on origin and evolution of life are following these new developments and continue to study a number of possibilities of origin of life in the universe.

(c) & (d) The scientific issues related to the origin of life on earth and other planets are already being investigated at a number of research institutions and universities in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Space Sciences (ADCOS), the Department of Space (DOS) has been sponsoring brainstorming sessions, workshops and meetings where scientists from various disciplines discuss the global status of research in the field and propose new research activities to be taken up by Indian scientists.

Non-Conventional Energy Sources—West Bengal

5110. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the potentiality to generate power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has supported a number of resource assessment and feasibility studies to assess the potential and to develop projects for generation of power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources in West Bengal. A potential of about 120 MW has already been assessed for small hydro power generation in the State. Ten wind monitoring stations have been taken up in the State to identify suitable sites for wind power projects. Three biomass resource assessment studies have also sponsored to estimate the potential of taluka-level biomass based power generation. Regarding the potential of solar energy, the State receives about 2600-2800 hours of bright sunshine and about 1700 KWh/m^2 of Global solar radiation per year.

Commercial Complex

5111. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been building commercial complex;

(b) if so, the places where these commercial complexes are being set up;

(c) whether some Commercial Complexes are proposed to be set up at Vasant Kunj which is being opposed by the local residents; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to select alternative sites for these commercial complexes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DDA has reported that the Master Plan of Delhi provides for five tier system of commercial complexes, *i.e.*,

(i) Central Business & Sub-Central Business Districts;

(ii) District Centre;

(iii) Community Centre;

(iv) Local Shopping Centre; and

(v) Convenient Shopping Centre.

All these shopping centres are distributed for assigned population in different zones/areas. A list of commercial complexes being developed is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) A commercial complex is proposed to be developed at Vasant Kunj Phase II on an area of about 65 hectares out of a total area of 315 hectares. DDA has invited objections/suggestions through public notice dated 19.5.96 on the overall land-use plan of the Scheme. No objection/suggestion has been received so far. All relevant factors will be taken into account before a final decision is taken in the matter.

STATEMENT

Tier system of Commercial Complexes are as under:

1. CENTRE BUSINESS DISTRICT & SUB-CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS :

   CBD Shahadara.

2. DISTT. CENTRES — 29 NOs.

As per Master Plan there are 29 Distt. Centres. 21 Nos. are within the Urban area and 8 Nos. are proposed in the urban extension area.

— Nehru Place, Rajendra Place, Bhikaji Cama Place, Janak Puri Place, Laxmi Nagar Place, Shivaji Place, Jhandewalan Place, Netaji Subhas Place (Wazirpur Distt. Centre), Saket Place, Shalimar Place, Shastri Place, Mayur Place, Mangalam Place, Rohtak Place, Khyber Place, Paschimpuri Place, Jahangir Puri Place, Dilshad Place, Loni Place, Auchandi Place.

— Whereas, 8 Nos. of Distt. Centres are yet to be identified in the urban extension area.

3. COMMUNITY CENTRES — 122 Nos.

82 Nos. are within the urban area and 40 Nos. are within the urban extension area.

29 Community Centres have been developed and 33 Community Centres are in the Planning stage and the rest are yet to be planned.

4. LOCAL SHOPPING CENTRES — 212 Nos.

Whereas, 149 LSCs, have been planned or under progress of completion, 63 No. of LSCs are yet to be planned.

5. CONVENIENT SHOPPING CENTRES — 497 Nos.

442 Nos. of CSCs, have either been completed or under planning and development stage. 55 Nos. of CSCs are yet to be designed.

Ambedkar Awas Yojna

5112. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Dr. Ambedkar Awas Yojana was sponsored by the DDA in 1989 by which Registration for MIG, LIG and Janata Flats were booked in DDA;

(b) if so, the number of flats allotted under this scheme, category-wise and the number of flats pending to be allotted;

(c) whether the DDA is considering to allot MIG and LIG flats very soon;

(d) if so, by when, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DDA has reported that the number of allotments made under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana and the backlog of the registrants as on 30.8.96 is as under:

Category	Allotment Made	Backlog
MIG	1302	4926
LIG	2655	6729
Janta	2988	all covered

(c) to (e) Allotment of flats is a continuous process. During the 1995-96 DDA has allotted 117 LIG/MIG flats to the registrants of Ambedkar Awas Yojana. During the current Financial year, 535 MIG flats have been allotted under this scheme so far.

Features of Ocean Development

5113. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the scope and salient feature of Ocean Development;

(b) the details of the perspective plan of the Government for Ocean Development;

(c) the target fixed for achievement of Ocean Development in the current financial year; and

(d) the amount of revenue earned by the Government during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Ocean Policy Statement enacted in 1982 in the Parliament offers the following scope on Ocean Development:

(i) Creation of basic knowledge and information about the various natural resources available in the sea

(ii) Mapping of living resources and assessment of availability of minerals in the deep sea

(iii) Development to technology for harnessing of ocean resources including ocean energy

(iv) Promotion of research and development in basic sciences and development of specialised manpower in the ocean sector

(v) Protection and preservation of marine environment

(vi) Development of data base in ocean science & technology

In order to fulfil the objectives outlined in the Ocean Policy Statement, eight major programmes are operational at present. The names of these programmes and their salient features are :

(i) Antarctic Research :

Annual Scientific expeditions to Antarctica to conduct research in various fields like

Meteorology, Atmospheric Sciences, Biology, Geology, Geophysics etc., are being undertaken with the participation of several Academic and Research Institutions in the country. So far 15 expeditions have been launched in addition to two special expeditions.

(ii) Deep Seabed Mining :

India is allotted a mining site of 150000 sq. km. in the Central Indian Ocean by the International Sea Bed Authority for exploration and exploitation of polymetallic nodules. These nodules, present at the depth of 5000 meters and beyond contain commercially valuable metals like copper, cobalt and nickel. Assessment of polymetallic nodule resources in the mine site, development of technology for mining and extraction of metals from the nodules and Environmental Impact Assessment study for mining are in progress.

(iii) Exploration of Marine Living and Non-living resources :

The Fisheries Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Sampada undertakes studies on assessment of marine living resources. The Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya undertakes multi-disciplinary oceanographic research and studies for assessment marine of non-living resources.

(iv) Coastal Zone and Island Programmes :

The programmes being undertaken are : Oceanography through remote sensing, monitoring of marine pollution, monitoring of sea level rise, development of shore to boat communication system, Fish-finder cum GPS System, and Prawn culture in islands. A scheme on Ocean Data buoy to facilitate continuous collection or oceanographic data from instrumented buoys is planned from 1996-97. Coastal community programmes for pilot scale demonstration of pearl culture using onshore facilities has been initiated during 1996-97.

(v) National Institute of Ocean Technology :

In order to focus attention on the development of ocean related technology in key areas of ocean sector, a National Institute of Ocean Technology has been established at Madras. The institute undertakes programmes relating to development of technology for harnessing wave energy, seabed mining, marine instrumentation and coastal studies on mission mode.

(vi) Basic Research and manpower development:

Projects to conduct basic research in marine science are sponsored in Universities and R & D institutions. Research Fellowships and assistance to Universities and R & D institutions are given to facilitate manpower development in several ocean related programmes. A national project on the development of drugs from the sea with the participation of national laboratories, medical institutions and universities is in progress.

(vii) Information and Awareness :

A National Ocean Information System is operational to collect, store and disseminate ocean related data in the country. Programmes such as organisation of exhibition and fairs, establishment of oceanarium to create awareness on oceans and ocean life are being undertaken.

(viii) International Co-operation and programmes :

The Department is servicing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which was ratified by India in June, 1995 and actively participates in several international and regional programmes relating to oceans and the Antartic Treaty System.

(b) The Perspective Plan of the Government for Ocean Development include :—

(i) Launching of Annual Expeditions to Antarctica for promotion of research in the fields of atmospheric, earth, biological and environmental sciences and human physiology.

(ii) Continuation of survey of Polymetallic Nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin and State-wise development of technology for mining of nodules and extraction of metals from nodules.

(iii) Application of satellite techniques for study of oceans and ocean characteristics.

(iv) Monitoring of marine environment, particularly to understand the trends of increase and decrease of pollutants in the coastal waters and development of mathematical knowledge to understand the diffusion and dispersion of pollutants.

(v) Development of drugs from marine organisms

(vi) Development of technology for shallow bed mining, extraction of energy from waves and development of marine instruments like tide gauges, GPS-cum-Fish Finder, remotely operated vehicles, etc.

(vii) Development and deployment of ocean observing system like moored and drifting data buoys.

(viii) Operationalisation of National Marine Data Centres to collect, store and dissemination of ocean related data generated by R&D institutions and Universities.

(ix) Mapping of marine living resources in the EEZ and studying the relationship between oceanographic parameters and abundance of fishery resources.